

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE

of the

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee of the Suffolk County Legislature was held in the Rose Y. Caracappa Legislative Auditorium of the William H. Rogers Legislature Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, New York, on Wednesday, July 20, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.

Members Present:

William J. Lindsay III - Chairman

Legislator Kara Hahn - Vice-Chair

Legislator Kevin McCaffrey

Legislator Leslie Kennedy

Legislator Steven Stern

Also in Attendance:

George Nolan - Counsel to the Legislature

Alyssa Turano - Aide to Legislator Hahn

Amy Ellis - Chief Deputy Clerk/Suffolk County Legislature

Laura Halloran - Budget Review Office

Greg Dawson - Commissioner/Suffolk County Department of Parks

Katie Horst - County Executive Assistant

Rick Brand - Newsday.

All Other Interested Parties

Minutes Taken & Transcribed By:

Gabrielle Severs - Court Stenographer

(The meeting was called to order at 12:34 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Good afternoon. Welcome to the Parks and Recreation committee meeting. If you could all please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance led by Legislator Kennedy.

(*Salutation*)

Good morning. Welcome to our Parks and Recreation committee meeting. We will start with the public portion. I have one comment card. If there's anybody else in the audience that would like to speak during the public portion, please fill out a yellow card, and we will have them come up. Our first speaker is Lance Reinheimer. Good morning, Lance. How are you?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Thank you. I'm fine. I'm here to speak on behalf of IR 1644, which is a capital budget amending resolution for \$80,000. It amends the capital budget by putting \$50,000 that was scheduled for construction into planning and then there's \$30,000 for construction. We have all the money we need to reroof Normandy Manor with the exception of planning and a little bit more construction funds. This should be the last time I come before you to plead my case for Normandy Manor. I provided some pictures for you to show you the extent of the reconstruction that needs to be done. With Normandy Manor, it's not just the tile, it's not the slate that has to be removed, but we're working on the flashing, the decorative woodworking, the gutters and the overhangs. And you can see, there's a great deal of work that needs to be done. We have a bird nest, a couple bird nests. All those doghouse dormers, the flashing and the wood is rotting, water is wicking down. It's our belief that at least a third of that roof from the soffits up are rotten.

Our plan is to use a plastic composite slate to replace this slate, and I came to this conclusion after talking to Public Works and the experience that they had at Griffing Avenue using real slate. First of all, real slate is three times more expensive. Second of all, it's a challenge with a roof with this pitch to be able to scaffold, put up slate, and have construction crews that are knowledgeable enough to know how to install slate without cracking the tiles, so these are the reasons we went to the plastic. It preserves the building if in the future, future legislatures, museum boards feel that they want to do slate, you know, at least the building is safe and secure and will last.

As I said, we have the funds appropriated for this and I'm just asking for the planning funds and the little bit of construction that's scheduled for this year's capital program. I'll be glad to take any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thanks, Lance, for coming in on this. I just have a couple quick questions. What kind of planning do you have to do for a roof?

MR. REINHEIMER:

The planning is the decorative replacement of the woodworking that's there, how to handle the soffits. It's also, when you talk about planning in the capital program, it's also construction supervision. If in the end you don't have to do that much planning, they don't use the \$50,000, that goes back into the free balance, so they would close that out and not use it, but the \$50,000 figure is the amount that I received from Public Works. Their total estimate for construction is \$640,000. Traditionally, capital projects, 10 percent of the construction costs are for planning, so

this is less than the \$64,000 would've been for 10 percent, so this is a number that Public Works thinks is reasonable. And have you gone out to bid on this yet?

MR. REINHEIMER:

No. Well, you can't go out to bid until you have the appropriations. We can't go out to bid -- they really can't do the work until they have planning money, so we have the funds for waterproofing and to do this roof already appropriated for previous capital programs, but we have absolutely no planning funds to do the work.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

And I would assume once the work is completed, the house would be inhabitable again.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes, and we have a couple plans for the house. I know there's other plans out there. We previously had licensed this out to a family for 5500 a month, which comes out to \$70,000 a year. That was approved through the legislature, that rent amount. If we go that route, the legislature would help in setting the rent for the house. I assume we could get more than 5500 for it in today's real estate market. We haven't put another family in there because if we do the roof, it's too intrusive to have a family there. Removing that slate is going to be a pretty intrusive job. If anyone were living in the house, I don't think they could stand to stay in it.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. Any other questions?

LEG. KENNEDY:

Yes.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Legislator Kennedy.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Hello, Lance.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Hi.

LEG. KENNEDY:

The plastic slate, would that keep it in the historic realm, is that okay?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah. I've talked to our curator. She feels the same as I do. The important part of this project is preserving the building. Putting on this plastic slate gives the same appearance. It actually, when -- I was at Public Works. I saw the samples. In those samples, they included a piece of real slate, and you would be hard-pressed to tell the difference. The profile of the slate, it's even a little bit thicker than the real slate, and the profile gives it a nice relief. It comes in multicolors, the green, the red, the gray, and you can order the ratio that you want. So we can replicate the ratio of colors that are in the current roof with this plastic slate. My concern is building preservation.

LEG. KENNEDY:

I understand that perfectly, but your curator has checked with both federal historic and state historic trusts to make sure?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yeah, she's very knowledgeable. That's why I ask her. I stay out of the museum business. I run the operations. I value her opinion. She's been there over 16 years. She's highly educated, highly qualified, and her opinion, yes. We've also investigated including this parcel in the national listing of historic properties. It's basically a "me too" because the rest of the estate is in -- when we received that that distinction, we didn't own Normandy Manor, so she checked with them and they basically said, Well, it's part of the original state, it's really just a paperwork thing. But this will not affect that status at all. Preservation of the building, we can remove this roof in the future and put on tile or slate if that's -- but the cost of that, it's cost-prohibitive. This is a great compromise. It preserves the building. It gives appearance. Several years ago, I looked at other samples that Public Works had in plastic slate and said it's not going to work. This is a new product, I guess, to the market or newly discovered by Public Works and they highly recommend it and they don't recommend using slate because of the problems that they had on Griffing Avenue. It just caused more problems than it was worth and the cost, of course, is three times as much.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. And I just have one more question that's not really relevant to this, but does the Vanderbilt take advantage of writing grants to private outside foundations?

MR. REINHEIMER:

Yes. We have -- the Gardiner Foundation provided us with \$135,000 grant. The Roy M. Spear Foundation has given us two separate grants of \$100,000 each for a total of \$200,000. The Reichert Family Foundation, we have an agreement with them over 20 years for \$1.7 million, so we have grants. Now those grants and those funds are all for a specific purposes, none of which covers Normandy Manor.

LEG. KENNEDY:

Okay. I'm just letting you know there are grants available out of Gardiner, so you can also apply for that too, not for this roof because we are dealing with that today but next time.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Oh, yes. We've had dialogues. What we're looking to do, hope all of you saw that six-page spread in Newsday Long Island Life about the work we're doing with the Gardiner Foundation. It's pretty exciting to have six pages dedicated to museum news. I'm real proud of that, and Stephanie, our curator, who I consulted about this roof, is heading that up, and she's doing a tremendous job, so I'm real proud of the work that Stephanie's doing.

MR. REINHEIMER:

If there's no more questions, I just have one more thing to say. I'd like to introduce Elizabeth Whelan Morgan. Elizabeth was just appointed the associate director of the Vanderbilt Museum. Six years with the Vanderbilt, seven years with the Heckscher Museum. She worked as deputy director of grants management -- Office of Grants Management in Nassau County. She's highly qualified, has an anthropology degree, so she's a museum person, and she's worked with me for six years, and I'm happy to say that I'm happy to have her stand next to me as my assistant and help me with this load of steering the Vanderbilt so it makes my life a little easier, and it's also part of our plan going forward into the future. So I just wanted to say welcome, Elizabeth.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Welcome, Elizabeth.

MS. WHELAN-MORGAN:

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I know you have your clam cake too this weekend so best of luck with that. Hopefully you guys have a great night.

MR. REINHEIMER:

As a matter of fact, Consuelo Vanderbilt Costin, she's the great great granddaughter of Willie K. II, is coming to the clam bake. We're hoping to convince her to perform a couple songs. She's an international performer. She also been appointed to the board as a legacy member of the Vanderbilt board, and that was something that she was very happy. She wanted to have association with the Vanderbilt, and the board was thrilled that she is so positive and wants to work with us and represent the museum. She lives in New York City, so she's a local person, and I think it just helps us with our public image. I'm real proud of having her appointed.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you, Lance.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We don't have any other public portion cards. Anybody in the audience that would like to speak, please come forward. Not seeing anyone, we'll close the public portion and move on to the agenda. We'll start with tabled resolutions.

We have **1371, Appropriating funds in connection with the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund for the Cedar Island Lighthouse (CP 7510)(Fleming)**. I'm going to ask to table this. I'll make a motion to table. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion is **tabled**. **(VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

On to Introductory Resolutions. **IR 1588, Appointing Terrence Pearsall as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 1) (P.O. Gregory)**. Motion by Legislator Kennedy. Second by Legislator Hahn. Terry, if you wouldn't mind coming forward, I think you're familiar with the proceedings here.

MR. PEARSALL:

I think so.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Good afternoon, Terry. Great to see you.

MR. PEARSALL:

Good afternoon, everyone. If you have any questions, please.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

I think we all know your background fairly well. If you could just briefly tell us why you would like to serve on the museum board.

MR. PEARSALL:

Yes. Well, in 2006, when your father was elected presiding officer, one of the first issues we faced

among the number was the Vanderbilt Museum and problems at the Vanderbilt, and those problems grew into 2008 when we had to freeze the endowment fund because the stock market was dropping so greatly. After that, we worked on changes at the Vanderbilt. I was his point man to the Vanderbilt and spent many hours speaking to staff members, going through minutes, and so forth to see where some problems had occurred and what we could do about it. And after 2008 and change in leadership at the Vanderbilt, when Lance came in, things started turning around. The morale of the staff increased tremendously, and I think we're at the point now, from what I have read in the past minutes and what Lance has told you, that the Vanderbilt is in the right direction. I would still like to be part of the Vanderbilt Museum.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Well, thanks, Terry. We appreciate your willingness to serve, and I'm sure I speak for all of the members of the committee that you would be a great asset to the board there.

MR. PEARSALL:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Any other questions for Terry?

MR. PEARSALL:

That was easy.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

We have a motion. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** Terry, as you know, you don't have to be at the general meeting on Tuesday, but you're more than welcome to attend.

1589, Appointing Kathleen Giamo as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 13) (P.O. Gregory). I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. Ms. Giamo, if you would come forward. She is not here, so I'm going to have to withdraw my motion and make a motion to table. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion will tabled until the next cycle. **Tabled (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

1590, Reappointing Anthony Guarnaschelli as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 10) (P.O. Gregory). It's a reappointment, so he doesn't need to appear. I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? The motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

Lance, if you wouldn't mind just stepping up to the mike for a moment. Legislator Hahn has a quick question for you.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Sure.

LEG. HAHN:

It's always good to know with reappointments attendance records, et cetera.

MR. REINHEIMER:

Tony, he's had some health issues the past year and a half to two years, so he was absent due to some of those health issues. He was hospitalized and couldn't make those meetings as far as

when his health is good, he does attend the meetings. He's coming to our clam bake, no questions asked, he always buys a table, so I know he's interested in the museum. He may be away, and that's why we don't have any information.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

He doesn't need to be here today.

LEG. HAHN:

Yeah, they don't need to be here for reappointment.

MR. REINHEIMER:

All right. Outside of his health issues, if he's able to be present for a meeting, he does attend the meetings.

LEG. HAHN:

Excellent. No, obviously, if someone is hospitalized that shouldn't factor into -- thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

1591, Appointing James P. Kelly as a member of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Commission (Trustee No. 15) (P.O. Gregory). Mr. Kelly, if you would come forward. I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. Good afternoon, Mr. Kelly. Thanks for coming in.

MR. KELLY:

Good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

If you wouldn't mind just telling us briefly the reasons why you would like to become involved with the museum and what you think you can add as a member of the board there.

MR. KELLY:

I currently teach political science at Saint Joseph's College, and in my classes, I read current events and try to relate to prior history. As far as history is concerned, I have always had a special interest in preserving our heritage. Obviously, the Vanderbilt influence on Long Island has been pretty heavy and intense. Unfortunately, most of our youngsters today don't read newspapers and really are losing a lot of our heritage because of their lack of knowledge, so I'm looking forward to joining the board and becoming an active participant in hoping to preserve and encourage knowledge of our Long Island history.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Thank you for your willingness to participate. Do you have any questions for Mr. Kelly? Not seeing any, thank you, Mr. Kelly, for coming in. So we have a motion and a second. I'll call the vote. All those in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)** Congratulations, Mr. Kelly. Same as with Terry, you don't need to be at the general meeting on Tuesday, but you're more than welcome to attend. Thank you.

1612, Authorizing use of Montauk County Park by Neo-Political Cowgirls for its ANDROMEDA Dance Theater Performance Fundraiser (County Executive).

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Yes, all the paperwork is in order. They paid the fees.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Okay. What are the Neo-Political Cowgirls? I just have to ask.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

It's a dance troupe. They are going to put on a dance exhibition in Montauk.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

It sounds very interesting. You definitely have one of the better jobs in the county, Commissioner Dawson. I'll make the motion to approve. Second by Legislator McCaffrey. All those in favor of the Neo-Political Cowgirls? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0)**

1644, Amending the 2016 Capital Budget and appropriating funds in connection with improvements to Normandy Manor at Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum (CP 7430) (Spencer). I'll make a motion to approve. Second by Legislator Kennedy. All in favor? Opposed? Abstentions? Motion carries. **Approved (VOTE: 5-0-0-0).**

Commissioner, if you wouldn't mind coming forward, we've got a couple brief questions for you. Legislator Hahn.

LEG. HAHN:

Hey, Greg. I want to thank you for taking me on the tour of a couple of our phenomenal locations that we have in your parks inventory earlier in July, and I highly recommend anyone who hasn't been. I hadn't been to Cupsogue Beach, and I'd heard so much about it, and Meschutt, so I was really glad to get out there and see them. Of course, over the years I'd been to Smith Point and Southold, but I was really excited to see Cupsogue and Meschutt. I do come back concerned about the plans for Cupsogue. So if you could outline, just really briefly for everyone, you know, after the fire, what happened, what the county did and what the current plans are.

LEG. GREGORY:

As you alluded to, we had a catastrophic fire roughly two years ago right after the season ended, and between Parks and DPW, a good portion of DPW. They did herculean efforts to get temporary structures put in place there. There's a catering facility, there's a deck, there's temporary restrooms and whatnot. So the original plan was to appropriate some money to put a permit building in its place. We found that the temporary facilities are doing a relatively good job. The customers seem to be happy, the restrooms seem to be nice, so we're scaling that back down. We obviously do still need a building. We need a building for the lifeguards, we need a building for our maintenance staff, so we are in process of reviewing that now with the Department of Public Works. As a matter of fact, we have a meeting sometime next week to kind of go over how we're going to move forward with the funding that we have to put something there. We didn't really want to put anything on top of where the existing building was because we've come to realize the vista and the views from up there are gorgeous, both on the bay side and the ocean side, so we're trying to come up with some kind of plan that works for, again, both the concession facility, Parks, EMTs, and our own maintenance staff.

LEG. HAHN:

I have to, and I'm going to -- I don't want to use the word "beg." I'm really going to beg the committee and the county executive and yourself and the incoming commissioner to reconsider not rebuilding for the concession and the bathrooms. It was, like you said, DPW did a fantastic job constructing something temporary, but it would be a darn shame if what's there stayed in any kind of permanent fashion. The concession stand is low, the deck sits next to the bathrooms, there's no

view of anything when you're eating. The bathroom building is, in essence, it appears to look like a tractor trailer container glorified, lifted up with metal. You guys can all imagine, and if you've been there, you know what I'm talking about. We have, correct me if I'm wrong, two oceanfront beaches with life guards. Two.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

That's correct, two ocean and one bay front.

LEG. HAHN:

It's a spectacular location, and, as you said, I could absolutely think we could come up with a design that maximized that view if we were to build a building up, you know, as it would need to be, that can maximize the view, that could have a deck facing the bay, another deck facing the ocean for folks to sit and the eat or whatever. That spot, so many people from my district, from all over the county travel to Cupsogue because it is such a spectacular location, and for us not to rebuild a concession and bathroom facility would be a complete shame. Folks come to Suffolk County because they want to access the ocean and want to access spots like that. I mean, I have pictures from those temporary bathrooms that are now a year old that look like -- it looks like it's 15 years old or more because of the rusting and whatever happens.

And I did speak to friends who frequent that spot and they were very alarmed at the thought that these would be permanent facilities, and I understand the pressure you're under budgetarily, that we all are under. I think we, you know, there are ways we can revisit. There are ways we can -- you know, revenue solutions specifically to rebuild this facility maybe on a temporary basis. I think there are things we can do to revisit how the parks, you know, can maximize bringing in dollars from tourists and others, whether we're renting out equipment or other things.

I think it all should be revisited because that is -- clearly, Smith Point is our flagship and then there are other issues there, but that is a gem of a spot and to not have a true concession stand and bathrooms, in my mind, would be a complete disgrace, and I don't think anyone here wants to cheap out in that manner. And if it takes us a little bit longer to build it, you know, that's fine, but I just wouldn't go building a facility for lifeguards, et cetera, where a true concession building should be, and that's my two cents.

I hope everyone here and those not here will go see what I'm talking about, and I really think if the legislators got out there and saw it and really thought about it, they would recognize how inappropriate it would be to cheap out at that location.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Any other questions for the commissioner? Thanks, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER DAWSON:

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN LINDSAY:

Not having any other business on the agenda, we are adjourned.

(The committee meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.)